

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3873

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, UR

SUBJECT: USSR DAY AT TRADE FAIR: TOASTS (?)

1. SEPTEMBER 9 DESIGNATED USSR DAY AT MOZAMBIQUE TRADE FAIR. USSR CHARGE D'AFFAIRES ARKADY GLOUKHOV HELD RECEPTION (AT THE SHELL OIL PAVILION, THE USSR PAVILION BEING TOO SMALL) WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER JOAQUIM CHISSANO ATTENDED. A CURIOUS EXCHANGE OF TOASTS ENSUED IN WHICH GLOUKHOV REMINDED MOZAMBIQUE OF PAST SOVIET ASSISTANCE. CHISSANO REPLIED BY PLACING USSR IN THE CAMP OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, STATING THAT MOZAMBIQUE WAS CREATING A NEW ORDER IN STEP WITH OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND DID NOT WANT TO CREATE UNFAVORABLE CONDITIONS BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED
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AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, BUT RATHER WANTED TO ESTABLISH MORE

EQUABILITY IN THE RELATIONSHIP. CHISSANO CONCLUDED BY STATING HE WOULD RATHER TOAST THE TIES MADE BY "THE LITTLE BIT OF SOVIET BLOOD" SPILT DURING THE LIBERATION WAR. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY TWO VISITING SOVIETS REPRESENTING THE USSR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN WHICH THEY EMPHASIZED WHAT GREAT CONTRIBUTIONS THE USSR WAS MAKING TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

2. COMMENT: THIS EXCHANGE POINTS UP WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE CONTINUING STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND MOZAMBIQUE, ALTHOUGH MASKED BY A SUPERFICIAL CORDIALITY. WE HAVE RECEIVED OTHER REPORTS OF SOVIET ANNOYANCE AT MOZAMBIQUE'S LACK OF MORE EFFUSIVE "GRATITUDE" FOR ASSISTANCE RENDERED DURING THE ARMED STRUGGLE, AND MOZAMBIKAN ANNOYANCE AT PERSISTENT SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO REMIND THEM OF THIS DEBT. ONE POSSIBLE MARK OF THIS MUTUAL ANNOYANCE IS THAT THERE IS STILL NO SOVIET AMBASSADOR ACCREDITED TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE. JACOBSEN

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